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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1068

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Gene Caldwell, M.D. on his meritorious service as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their elected duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gene Caldwell's illustrious career in the House of Representatives will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 2002 Session of the 102nd General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gene Caldwell has for many years been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Oak Ridge and Anderson County, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the constituents of House District 33 evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Gene Caldwell by electing him as their representative to the General Assembly, a position in which he has performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, during his three terms and six years in the House of Representatives, Dr. Caldwell has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, Representative Caldwell is a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his outstanding contributions and his service as a member of the House Education Committee, the House Health and Human Services Committee, and the TennCare Oversight Committee, which he has served adroitly as Chairman; and

WHEREAS, a tireless champion for the rights of children, Dr. Caldwell has fought passionately on behalf of children, seeking to better Tennessee's child care delivery system through innovative legislation such as last year's "child care ratio" bill, which mandates a decrease in the number of children supervised by each child care worker; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gene Caldwell understands the connection between quality education and success in adult life, and he has worked with purpose and commitment to provide adequate funding for, and to otherwise advance the noble causes of, education at all levels; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership, Representative Caldwell has served as a member of many community, civic, and statewide organizations, including the Alpha Kappa Alumni Association, Alpha Gamma Rho; the University of Tennessee Alumni Association, Executive Committee; the Roane-Anderson Economic Council; the Girls Club of Oak Ridge, Sustaining Membership Chairman; the RID; the Methodist Medical Center Foundation; the Chamber of Commerce, Oak Ridge and Anderson County; and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, East Tennessee Chapter, Program Services Committee and Grant Awards Committee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Caldwell currently serves as a board member of the Tennessee Technology Development Corporation, a member of the Department of Human Services Standards Committee on Day Care, and a member of the Tennessee Childhood Education and Training Act Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, a native of Obion County, Gene Caldwell graduated from Woodland Mills High School in 1949; he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from the University of Tennessee in 1953 and a degree in Pre-Med from Vanderbilt University in 1957; in 1960, he completed a medical degree at the University of Tennessee in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Caldwell nobly defended his country during both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, serving as a Line Officer in the United States Navy from 1953-1957, and attaining the rank of Lieutenant; he served in the Navy's Medical Corps from 1960-1967, and attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander; from 1963-1967, he served as the Chief of Pediatrics at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Gene Caldwell has served as Chief of Staff of the Oak Ridge Hospital, as Staff Pediatrician at the Children's Clinic in Oak Ridge, on the Board of Directors for the Fort Sanders Management Group and Preferred Health Partnership Board, and as a volunteer lobbyist for the Tennessee Pediatric Society; and

WHEREAS, for his unparalleled devotion to public service and the rights of children, Representative Gene Caldwell has received numerous awards and honors, including the Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Kappa, Outstanding Alumni Award, in 1975 and 1993; Girls Club, Volunteer of the Year, in 1988; the Chapter Achievement Award as a Children's Advocate, the American Academy of Pediatrics, in 1996; East Tennessee Legislator of the Year, the East Tennessee Resource Agency Area Agency on Aging, in 1998; and the Tennessee Children's Champion, Tennessee Association of Education for Young Children, in 2000; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Gene Caldwell is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Bobbie Caldwell; together, they are the proud parents of children and spouses: Deborah and Curt Bader; Randolph and Diana Butzke Caldwell; the late Sarah Katherine Caldwell; Amanda and Scott Spaid, and Jennifer and Chris Weaver; and the grandparents of Jeremy and Nathan Birdwhistell; Sean, Sarah, and Adam Spaid; and Ian Alexander Caldwell; and

WHEREAS, Representative Caldwell's announcement of his retirement from the General Assembly has greatly disappointed and disconcerted his fellow lawmakers, Democrats and Republicans alike, and his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of House District 33; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our friend and colleague, Representative Gene Caldwell; now, therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Representative Gene Caldwell, M.D. on his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of Oak Ridge and Anderson County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Dr. Gene Caldwell our best wishes for much success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative Caldwell as a token of our esteem.